(d) and (e) No, Sir. The proposals of the Road Safety Forum, falling under the jurisdiction of NHAI, have already been studied. Any further suggestions will be duly considered.

Benefits of "Bhuvan"

1142. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently innovated "Bhuvan" by ISRO would be reoriented to simple operations so that common men engaged in deep-sea fishing or deployed to conserve our fast dwindling wild life, are able to derive maximum advantage to improve their efficiency; and

(b) whether an awareness campaign would be launched, through NGOs or similar grass-roots institutions, so that large segment of our poor population are able to benefit from such innovations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) 'Bhuvan' is an initiative of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for visualisation of the earth's terrain through the images taken by the Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites, which also provides linkages to thematic information on land use/land cover; soil; groundwater prospects; potential fishing zones etc., which are useful to the common man.

(b) Awareness Programmes on various initiatives of ISRO are conducted periodically through NGOs as well as Central and State agencies.

Use of internet in space

1143. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether internet is being used anywhere in the space;

(b) if so, the location thereof;

(c) whether India is also making efforts in this regards;

(d) the Ministries, which are using the data banks of the information received from space shuttles;

(e) whether there is any research centre in the Space Department; and

(f) if so, the number of scientists working therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) India is not using internet in any of its space assets. However,

international agencies like National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of USA may be using internet in the International Space Station (ISS) in Low Earth Orbit.

(c) India is not making any efforts in this direction, at present.

(d) No, Sir. India does not receive data from Space shuttle.

(e) and (f) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is a Research and Development Organisation under Department of Space and there are about 6000 Engineer/Scientists working in various fields of Space Research, Technology and Applications.

MPLADS

1144. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether insisting on the guidelines of 15 per cent and 7.5 per cent for SC/ST, respectively huge sums of money under MPLADS are lying without being spent;

(b) whether Government is aware of it; and

(c) whether there would be a rethinking on this issue and revision of the guidelines in such a way that the percentage of funds can be used for the benefit of SC/ST people without insisting on villages exclusively inhabited by SC/ST people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (c) The provision for Members of Parliament to recommend works for the development of areas inhabited by SC/ST was introduced for the first time in the Guidelines when it was revised in November, 2005. The district authorities are responsible for enforcing these provisions relating to the SC and ST areas. The district authorities also are instructed from time to time by the Ministry to enforce these provisions. The Ministry has not received any information relating to huge sums for SC/ST areas lying unspent with the district authorities.

MPLADS

1145. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism to inspect quality of assets created by utilizing Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) funds;

(b) the actions that are taken in the cases where irregularities are found; and

(c) the reasons for actions not being taken against concerned officials in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is administered through a set of Guidelines which